

A Publication  
of the

# TENNESSEE ECONOMIC COUNCIL ON WOMEN

July 2013



## Johnson City to Host Hearing Studying the Economic Impact of Violence Against Women

**J**ohnson City will host the Tennessee Economic Council on Women's (TECW) ninth and final public hearing on Violence Against Women as it concludes a statewide campaign to gather detailed information about the cost of violent crime to Tennessee communities. The hearing will collect information from the eight-county First Tennessee Development District and will take place in the Robert Taylor Salon at the Carnegie Hotel, located at 1216 West State of Franklin Road. It will be held on July 31st from 8 a.m. until 12:30 p.m., Eastern Time.

The hearing will be convened by Council member and Vice President of Community and Government Relations for Mountain States Health Alliance, Elliott



Dr. Phyllis Thompson, East Tennessee State University

Moore. "These crimes reach every corner of the state, and we are very glad to bring attention to their impact in Northeast Tennessee," says Moore. "Our communities are paying an immense, but unseen price because of violence perpetrated against women, and we're working hard to bring that burden into the sunlight. Better understanding the problem will help us to build a community-wide response and make the necessary decisions to stop the cycle of violence."

The information gathered during this hearing series will be used to produce a report on violent crime against women that will expand on the Economic Council's study released in 2006, which revealed more than \$174 million in reported costs caused by domestic violence in Tennessee, alone. The current work will include a more rigorous update of that information and will also address the economic impact of human sex trafficking and sexual assault. Dr. Phyllis Thompson, Director of the Women's Studies Program at East Tennessee State University will be responsible for framing the topic of discussion at the hearing.

"The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Cen-

*...Continued on Page 6*

## Message from Executive Director Phyllis Qualls-Brooks

Dear Colleagues,

And then there was One! The Economic Council is down to its final hearing on the Economic Impact of Violence Against Women, which takes place, Wednesday, July 31, from 8 a. m. to 12:30 p.m. EST in Johnson City, at the Carnegie Hotel.

This is our ninth hearing, chaired by Elliott Moore, closing out this series in the Tri-Cities of East Tennessee. The purpose of these hearings is to gather evidence and provide a comprehensive research study seen through an economic lens on these crimes against women and children, specifically.

The official Report will be released at the 10th Annual Economic Summit for Women, held Sunday and Monday, Oct. 27 & 28, in partnership with Vision 2020. In addition to the results of the Violence Against Women report, you will also learn about women's leadership from extraordinary women who have made great achievements. Finally, the Tennessee Women's Hall of Fame will induct six women into its ranks. There will be two from each of the grand divisions. They will be presented at the noon luncheon during the summit. The deadline for the Council to receive nominations is July 31. You may visit [tennesseewomen.org](http://tennesseewomen.org) for information on the Women's Hall of Fame and the annual summit.

Finally my thanks to the Economic Council and Foundation members for their tireless work in keeping a focus on women for empowerment and continued growth.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phyllis".



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## Jackson Hearing on Violence Against Women Highlights Need For Growth in Approach

**W**est Tennessee Healthcare hosted the eighth installment of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women's (TECW) public hearing series on violence against women, last week, in Jackson, Tennessee. The hearing was convened to gather information from local officials, law enforcement, social service and health care providers about the economic impact of crimes like domestic violence, human sex trafficking and sexual assault.

"This hearing had a lot of storytellers; people who had been around when we weren't addressing problems like domestic violence at all. They reminded us of how far we've come in the last thirty or forty years, and how far we still need to go as the cycle of violence continues," said TECW Executive Director Phyllis Qualls-Brooks. "We also heard a lot of comparisons between domestic violence response in the old days and the growing awareness of human trafficking now."

Margie Quin, Assistant Special Agent in Charge at the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Fusion Center referred to the state's approach to trafficking as being in its infancy. "Before 2011, it was a misdemeanor crime to solicit sex from a minor. Today, thanks to work by the TBI and others, and the attention of the legislature, that same crime is now an A or B felony," said Special Agent Quin.

Though the state's efforts have started only recently, TBI and the legislature have been making great progress on this issue. The General Assembly has passed more than a dozen related laws in recent years and TBI has begun a statewide effort headed by Special Agent Quin to train what she calls "first identifiers" – law enforcement personnel, emergency medical providers and others who are likely to first interact with a trafficking victim – about human trafficking and what to look for when they encounter a potential situation. TBI has trained well over

5,000 individuals in formal classes and other special workshops so far.

Other speakers included Jackson City Mayor Jerry Gist and Madison County Mayor Jimmy Harris, who cited well over two hundred domestic dispute calls made to the Madison County Sheriff's Department. State Representatives Debra Moody (R-Covington), Johnny Shaw (D-Bolivar), and Jimmy Eldridge (R-Jackson) also participated. "Most local officials already have a sense for the expense of these crimes; they see the bill when you have to send two officers out to respond to hundreds of dangerous calls each year," said TECW Chair Yvonne Wood. "Still, there are some who haven't thought about it from this angle yet, and they tend to be very excited to be a part of these hearings, where we are bringing the community together with great purpose. They see that prevention will be a cost-saver as well as a life-saver."

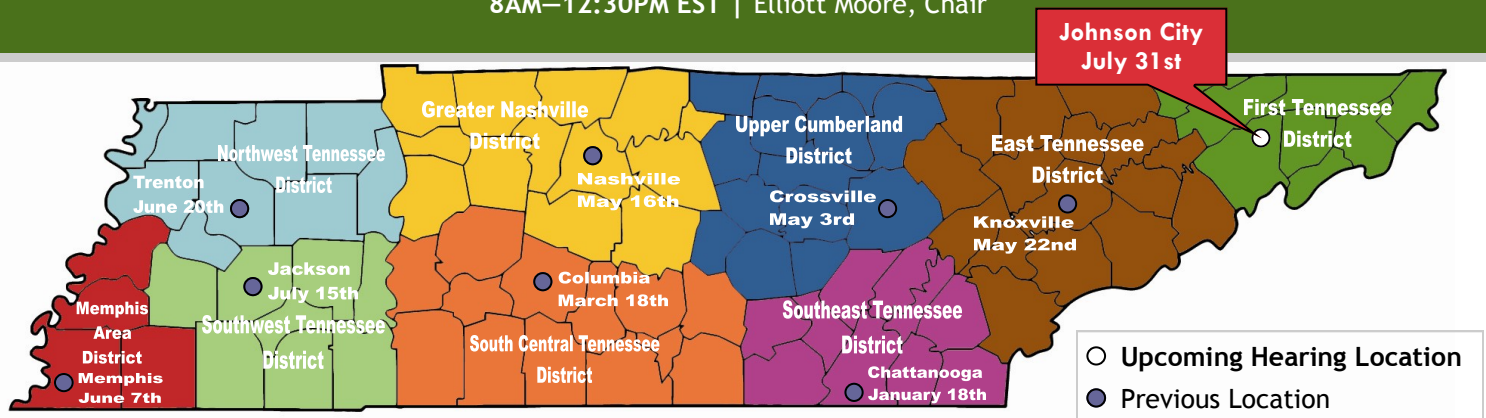
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## 2013 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN HEARINGS

**\*FINAL SERIES DATE: July 31st - Johnson City, TN\***

Carnegie Hotel | 1216 West State of Franklin Road

8AM–12:30PM EST | Elliott Moore, Chair



TECW hearings are open to the public. If you would like to attend or participate in future hearings, please contact the Tennessee Economic Council on Women at 615-253-4266 or [info.ecw@tn.gov](mailto:info.ecw@tn.gov).

## 2013 East Tennessee Women's Leadership Summit: Closing the Gap

The 2013 East Tennessee Women's Leadership Summit had a standing room only attendance at the Knoxville Airport Marriott on June 15. The theme this year was Closing the Gap – in Wages, Confidence and Leadership. Talented speakers held the audience of more than 240 attendees captive on their stories, trials & successes, providing wisdom and ways we can further develop as women and as human beings.

Nikki Giovanni, a Tennessee native, born in Knoxville and a world-renowned poet, author of more than 30 books and a distinguished professor at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia delivered the keynote address. She's been described by

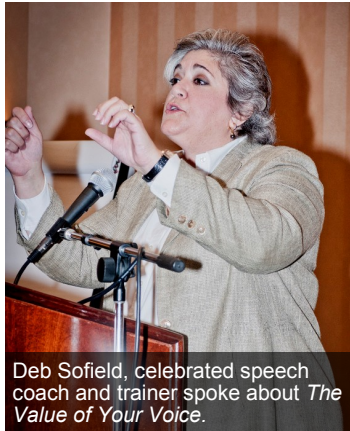
ing, was encouraging and empowering to the women in the audience.

Deb Sofield, a nationally-known speaker and executive speech coach, kicked off the day with a lively presentation on how we can find, and use, our Voice. She taught, trained and showed ways for women to clearly communicate who they are, what they believe in and how to achieve their goals without apology. Also on the program was Rita Geier, plaintiff in the Geier vs. State of Tennessee litigation that lasted 40 years before it was settled. That historic litigation changed the way higher education deals with discrimination in Tennessee.

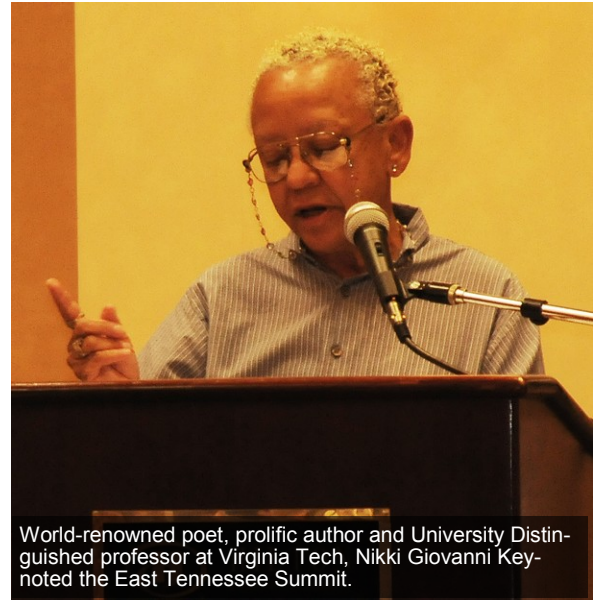
Other speakers focused on financial education, personal growth, business development and of course, outstanding networking. The second annual Lizzie Crozier French Women's Leadership Award was presented by last year's recipient, Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero, to Supreme Court Justice Sharon G. Lee. These

two outstanding individuals provide powerful examples of the ongoing contributions and effective leadership of East Tennessee women.

Wendy Pitts Reeves, former member of the Economic




Deb Sofield, celebrated speech coach and trainer spoke about *The Value of Your Voice*.



World-renowned poet, prolific author and University Distinguished professor at Virginia Tech, Nikki Giovanni Key-noted the East Tennessee Summit.

Council, and co-chair of the East Tennessee Women's Leadership Council, chaired the event. She said, "Our Summit isn't just an ordinary conference. This high-energy, high-impact day provides women with the tools they need to step up and lead within their own lives – both at work and at home. It was a great day."

Many attendees said they were so inspired they are already planning to attend next year's Leadership Summit on June 13, and they planned to attend the statewide annual summit in Nashville on Oct. 27 & 28 as well. 



(L to R): Tennessee Supreme Court Justice Sharon Lee speaks alongside Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero after receiving the 2013 Lizzie Award.

Oprah as one of 25 "Living Legends", and it was easy to understand why. With subtlety and grace, she shared powerful thoughts and stories from her life, and in so do-



Summit Attendees participated in workshops, general session presentations, and a networking lunch.

\*Photos Care of Lizel Photo Creations

*Save the Date*  
**October 27 & 28**  
**Nashville Airport Marriott**

**10<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Economic Summit for Women**  
**& VISION2020 Regional Congress**  
EQUALITY IN SIGHT®

**Col-lab-o-rate** with Keynotes Connie Lindsey, National President of the Girl Scouts of America, and Deedee Corradini, President of the International Women's Forum, and experts and officials from across Tennessee and America to discuss and learn about economic growth, leadership, marketing and confidence.

**Cel-e-brate** the 15th Anniversary of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women and the 10th annual Economic Summit for Women!

[www.tnwomensummit.org](http://www.tnwomensummit.org) | [www.tennesseewomen.org](http://www.tennesseewomen.org) | [www.facebook.com/TNECW](http://www.facebook.com/TNECW)

- Keynote Speakers -



**Connie Lindsey**  
 National President  
 Girl Scouts of America  
 Vision 2020 Leader



**Deedee Corradini**  
 International Women's Forum  
 Fmr. Mayor, Salt Lake City  
 Vision 2020 Delegate

with Presenting Partner



**Saint Thomas Health**

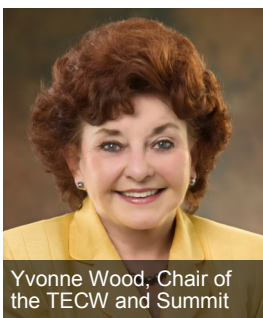
and Reception Sponsor



**Fidelity**  
 INVESTMENTS®

**10th Tennessee Economic Summit for Women – October 27th & 28th, 2013**

Nashville's 10th Annual Women's Economic Summit, the premiere women's conference in Tennessee, will feature high caliber speakers, Connie Lindsey, president of the Board of Directors of the Girl Scouts of America, former



Yvonne Wood, Chair of the TECW and Summit

Mayor of Salt Lake City, Deedee Corradini, and a panel of female mayors from Tennessee, including Madeline Rogero of Knoxville, Kim McMillan of Clarksville, Sharon Goldsworthy of Germantown and Jo Ann Graves of Gallatin. Other speakers will focus on marketing, legislative matters and career confidence.

The Summit theme is "Collaboration &



Celebration" this year, because 2013 marks the Economic Council on Women's 15th anniversary and the Summit's 10th.

The Summit takes place Oct. 27 & 28 in Nashville at the Airport Marriott. For more information go to [www.tnwomensummit.org](http://www.tnwomensummit.org).

**{ Collaboration & Celebration }**



## TECW 2013 Scholarships Available, UT Grad Cady Kington Thanks Council for Success

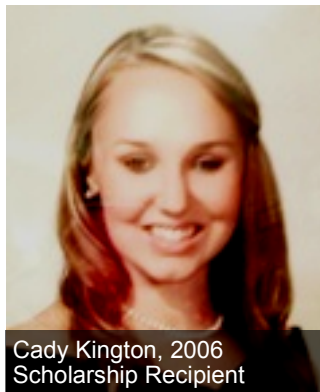
**T**he Women's Economic Council Foundation (WECF), in partnership with the Tennessee Economic Council on Women (TECW), is committed to helping the women of Tennessee reach their full economic potential. A key component in this mission is the Foundation's college scholarship program for both traditional and non-traditional female students. Many have received the award and have recognized it as a valuable stepping stone in their educational and professional life.

This year, in celebration of the 15th anniversary of TECW, Fidelity Investments is partnering with the WECF and TECW to provide \$6,000 for three teen scholarships; one from West, Middle and East Tennessee. This commitment will double the size of the scholarships awarded to traditional students and promises to be a great asset to teens striving to earn a degree. "Fidelity Investments believes that education is the passport to our future, and we want to be part of that journey for these deserving Tennessee teens" said Holly Hollar, Vice President & Regional Planning Consultant, Tennessee Market, Fidelity Investments. Cady Kington, of Crossville, is a previous recipient of the award and recently shared with the Foundation and Council how it impacted her career.

Cady's hard work in high school paid off when she received the award in 2006. The scholarship was like a key, she says, opening the next door in her life as she entered college. Thousands of high school graduates struggle with the ability

to pay for college, but the Foundation and Council alleviated Cady's concern. "The scholarship definitely lessened the burden of my education and living expenses as an undergraduate and helped pave the way, financially, for the rest of my education at UT," Cady recalled. These scholarships are designed not only to aid in creating opportunity for women, but also to impact

the economy by helping women to complete their education, compete in the workforce, earn higher wages and add value to their community.




After graduating from high school in the spring of 2007, Cady attended the University of Tennessee at Knoxville to pursue a future in nursing. In 2011 she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and has begun her career as a Registered Nurse at East TN Children's Hospital in Knoxville. As a nurse working in the Float Pool, her job tasks range from feeding premature babies in the NICU, taking care of medical and surgical patients, and assisting new arrivals to the emergency department or intensive care unit.

"Cady is undeniably a brilliant woman who has achieved her goals of becoming a nurse and obtaining economic autonomy," said Pat Pierce, scholarship chair of WECF. "She recognizes that the TECW's scholarship helped her achieve her goals," Pierce added.

**"This scholarship helped me seek out the university that best fit my needs and offered the best opportunity for achievement."**

"If it were not for wonderful agencies such as the TECW, several deserving young ladies across the state of Tennessee, just like me, would endure additional financial burdens and sometimes struggle to pursue a collegiate career. This scholarship helped me seek out the university that best fit my needs and offered the best opportunity for achievement" Cady

stated. "It was my dream to be a VOL and I would not have had the opportunity to learn and grow at Rocky Top without the generosity and mission of the TECW and WECF."

For those future recipients Cady shares a wise word. "Pursue your dreams, even if they change along the way; never forget how far and from where you have come; and remember all of the people that helped you get to where you are or who you want to be." 

The application form for this year's round of traditional and non-traditional scholarships will be available online starting July 29th, at [www.womenseconomicfoundation.org](http://www.womenseconomicfoundation.org)

The window to apply will close September 6, 2013. All applicants must be available to attend the award ceremony on October 28, 2013 at 8:00 am at the Airport Marriott in Nashville, Tennessee. Questions should be addressed to Pat Pierce, Scholarship Chair at


[tecscholarship@comcast.net](mailto:tecscholarship@comcast.net).

## Johnson City Cont.

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ters for Disease Control report that one in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime and one in six women will be raped; 54 percent of these rapes will be perpetrated against girls under the age of 18. What these statistics don't tell but the upcoming hearing on the economic impact of violence against women will show is that while it may be a percentage of the population that is violated, it is 100% of the citizens of Tennessee that are affected. Violence against women is not only a women's issue, it affects us all," says Thompson.

Federal and state officials as well as representatives from law enforcement, social service agencies, healthcare, private industry, the judicial system and survivors will testify to the economic impact of these crimes.


The results of the 2013 public hearing series will be combined with statewide surveys, focus groups and a literature review to round out data gathering for the TECW's full report on this subject, which will be released to the public at the Tennessee Women's Economic Summit in Nashville on October 27th and 28th. 

## Jackson Hearing Continued

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Jackson City Police Captain Tyreece Miller discussed the case of David Jordan, a man who killed his wife and two others in at a TDOT office in Jackson, on January 11, 2005. Captain Miller described nearly \$300,000 in expenses at the city, county, and state level, to date, for law enforcement to respond and incarcerate the perpetrator in this single case of domestic violence. This number did not include the impact to the community

of losing three of its members or the physical and psychological effects of the crime on others. "Domestic violence is not a crime against a single person; it is a crime against the peace and dignity of our community," added Miller.

The TECW series concludes on July 31st in Johnson City, and the TECW's full report will be made public at the Economic Summit for Women, which will take place at the Nashville Airport Marriott on October 27th and 28th. 

## The Women's Economic Council Recognizes...



Veronica Johnson

**Veronica Marable Johnson**, who has been re-elected for a second term as President of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Metropolitan Nashville Chapter. Veronica was also recently elected to serve on the board of the Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence against Women and selected for the 2013 Class of Leadership Nashville. Veronica is director of programs and operations at the Center for Women's Health Research at Meharry Medical College in Nashville.

**Wendy Pitts Reeves**, who has been selected as a 2013 Finalist for the YWCA Tribute to

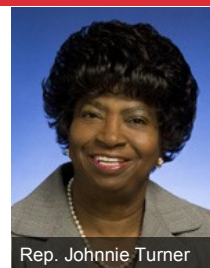


Wendy Pitts Reeves

Women Award in Knoxville. Winners will be announced on August 15. Wendy is a licensed psychotherapist, motivational speaker and life coach who hosts the popular Secret Adventures for Courageous Women, a series of local and national experiences that help women turn courage into confidence through exploration, experience and adventure. Among other things, she's also Chair of the East Tennessee Women's Leadership Council, which plans and presents the annual East Tennessee Women's



Rep. Karen Camper



Rep. Johnnie Turner

Leadership Summit in Knoxville.

**Representatives Karen Camper & Johnnie Turner**, who both visited Turkey on trade missions this summer; Rep. Camper with the Women's Action for New Directions and Parliamentarians Network/East West Institute; and Rep. Turner with the Turkish American Chamber of Commerce of the Southeast. 

## Upcoming 2013 Events

## July

July 31, 2013

**Violence Against Women Hearing - Johnson City, TN**

## August

August 15 &amp; 16, 2013

**TECW Annual Retreat & Summer Quarterly Meeting - Columbia State Community College**

## October

October 27-28, 2013

**10th Annual Economic Summit for Women-Nashville Airport Marriot**



**October 29, 2013**  
**Fall Quarterly Meeting**